

# *USDA update on Advancing Biomass Projects*

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**Biomass TAC Meeting**  
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Committed to the future of rural communities.

# USDA Biomass Updates

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- Wood to Energy Partnership
- Biorefinery Assistance Program
- Research Award
- Solicitation Update
- Farm Bill Title IX Update

# Biorefinery Assistance Program

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- \$181 million available to develop commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit existing facilities
- Applications for biorefinery assistance are due by January 30, 2014. More information about how to apply is available in the October 2, 2013 Federal Register
- Biorefinery Assistance Program has provided approximately \$684 million in assistance to support biofuels projects in eight states
- <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/2013%20Section%209003%20Notice%20of%20Funding%20Availability.pdf>

# Wood to Energy Partnership

- Partnership agreement signed on September 11 to expand wood energy use, which will help improve the safety, health of our nation's forests
- Focuses on biomass power and thermal
- Partners includes the Alliance for Green Heat, the Biomass Power Association, the Biomass Thermal Energy Council, and the Pellet Fuels Institute
- \$1.1 million in grants awarded to five organizations to form state-wide teams to stimulate development of wood energy projects
  - Idaho Governor's Office of Energy Resources, Boise
  - The Watershed Research & Training Center, Hayfork, Calif.
  - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Saint Paul
  - North Country Resource Conservation & Development Council, Gilford, N.H.
  - The Alaska Energy Authority, Anchorage



# Farm Bill Title IX

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## Current Solicitations

- Section 9002 open
- Section 9003 open
- Section 9004 Unfunded for 2014
- Section 9005 Contract application period closed
- Section 9007 Solicitation expected in near future
- Section 9008 Unfunded for 2014
- Section 9011 Unfunded for 2014

# Farm Bill Title IX

Provision	Senate Changes	House Changes
<b>Biobased Markets Program (Sec. 9002)</b>	Extends through FY2018 with \$3 million/year mandatory and \$2 million/year discretionary	Extends through 2018, “such funds to carry out this section”
<b>Biorefinery Assistance Program (Sec. 9003)</b>	Authorized through 2018 with \$150 mil/year Discretionary. Mandatory money: \$100 million in FY13, \$58 million in FY14 and 15. For FY13-15, not more than \$25 million toward biobased product	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$75 million/year discretionary funding
<b>Repowering Assistance Program Sec. 9004</b>	Program not reauthorized , section eliminated	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$10 million/year discretionary Funding

Provision	Senate Changes	House Changes
<b>Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels (Sec. 9004 in Senate bill and Sec. 9005 in House )</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 at \$20 million/year discretionary	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$50 million/year discretionary funding
<b>Biodiesel Fuel Education Program (Sec. 9005 in Senate bill and Sec. 9006 in House bill)</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 at \$1 million/year discretionary and with \$1 million/year mandatory funding	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$2 million/year discretionary funding.
<b>Rural Energy for America Program (REAP (Section. 9006 in Senate Bill and Sec. 9007 in House bill)</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 at \$20 million/year discretionary and \$68.2 million/year mandatory funding	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$45 million/year discretionary funding

Provision	Senate Changes	House Changes
<b>Biomass Research and Development Initiative (Sec. 9007 in Senate bill and Sec. 9008 in House )</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$30 million/year discretionary and \$26 million/year mandatory funding	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$20 million/year discretionary funding
<b>Feedstock Flexibility Program (Sec. 9008 Senate, 9009 House )</b>	Reauthorized through 2018	Reauthorized through 2018
<b>Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) (Sec. 9009 in Senate bill and Sec. 9010 in House )</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$20 million/year discretionary and \$38.6 million/year mandatory funding	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$75 million/year discretionary funding
<b>Community Wood Energy Program (Sec. 9011)</b>	Reauthorized through 2018 at \$5 million/year discretionary funding	Reauthorized through 2018 with \$2 million/year discretionary funding



# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

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- \$10 million grant to consortium led by Colorado State University (CSU) to research using insect-killed trees in the Rockies as a sustainable feedstock for bioenergy
- Infestations of pine and spruce bark beetles have impacted over 42 million acres of U.S. forests since 1996
- Changing climate threatens to expand the threat from bark beetle on our forest lands
- Partners include: University of Idaho, University of Montana, Montana State University and the University of Wyoming, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, National Renewable Energy Lab and Cool Planet Energy Systems

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***Thank you!***

***For more information on USDA Energy Programs, visit: [www.usda.gov/energy](http://www.usda.gov/energy)***



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